Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of treating insomnia in a patient comprising administering a therapeutic amount of a ~~sedative hypnotic~~ drug condensation aerosol to the patient by inhalation,

wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of zaleplon, zolpidem and zopiclone, and

wherein the condensation aerosol is formed by heating a thin layer containing the drug, on a solid support, to produce a vapor of the drug, and condensing the vapor to form a condensation aerosol characterized by less than 10% drug degradation products by weight, and ~~having~~ an MMAD of less than 5 microns. ~~3 μm and less than 5% sedative hypnotic drug degradation products, to a patient by inhalation, upon activation by the patient of the formation of, and delivery of, the condensation aerosol.~~

2. (currently amended) The method ~~of~~ according to claim 1, wherein the condensation aerosol is characterized by an MMAD of less than 3 microns. ~~wherein said condensation aerosol is formed by~~

~~a. volatilizing an sedative hypnotic drug under conditions effective to produce a heated vapor of the sedative hypnotic drug; and~~

~~b. condensing the heated vapor of the sedative hypnotic drug to form condensation aerosol particles.~~

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein ~~said administration results in a~~ peak plasma drug concentration ~~of said sedative hypnotic drug~~ is reached in less than 0.1 hours.

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~administered~~ condensation aerosol is formed at a rate greater than 0.5 mg/second.

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least 50% by weight of the condensation aerosol is amorphous in form.

7.-10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A method of administering a ~~sedative hypnotic~~ drug condensation aerosol to a patient ~~to achieve a peak plasma drug concentration rapidly,~~ comprising administering the drug condensation aerosol to the patient by inhalation,

wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of zaleplon, zolpidem and zopiclone, and

wherein the drug condensation aerosol is formed by heating a thin layer containing the drug, on a solid support, to produce a vapor of the drug, and condensing the vapor to form a condensation aerosol characterized by less than 10% ~~an aerosol of a sedative hypnotic drug having less than 5% sedative hypnotic~~ drug degradation products by weight, and an MMAD of less than 5 microns. ~~3 microns wherein the peak plasma concentration of the sedative hypnotic drug is achieved in less than 0.1 hours.~~

12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) A kit for delivering a drug condensation aerosol comprising:

~~a)~~ a. a thin ~~coating of an sedative hypnotic drug composition and~~ layer containing the drug, on a solid support, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of zaleplon, zolpidem and zopiclone, and

~~b)~~ b. a device for providing the condensation aerosol, wherein the condensation aerosol is formed by heating the thin layer to produce a vapor of the drug, and condensing the vapor to form a condensation aerosol characterized by less than 10% drug degradation products by weight, and an MMAD of less than 5 microns. ~~dispensing said thin coating as a condensation aerosol~~.

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) The kit ~~of~~ according to claim 13, wherein the device ~~for dispensing said coating of a sedative hypnotic drug composition as an aerosol~~ comprises:

~~(a)~~ a. a flow through enclosure containing the solid support,

~~(b) contained within the enclosure, a metal substrate with a foil-like surface and having a thin coating of an sedative hypnotic drug composition formed on the substrate surface,~~

~~(c)~~ b. a power source that can be activated to heat the ~~substrate to a temperature effective to volatilize the sedative hypnotic drug composition contained in said coating~~ solid support, and

~~(d)~~ c. ~~inlet and exit portals~~ at least one portal through which air can be drawn ~~through said device~~ by inhalation,

wherein ~~heating the substrate by~~ activation of the power source is effective to produce a vapor of the drug, and drawing air through the enclosure is effective to condense the vapor to form the

condensation aerosol. ~~form a sedative hypnotic drug vapor containing less than 5% sedative hypnotic drug degradation products, and drawing air through said chamber is effective to condense the sedative hypnotic drug vapor to form aerosol particles wherein the aerosol has an MMAD of less than 3 microns.~~

16. (currently amended) The kit according to claim 15, wherein the heat for heating the ~~substrate~~ solid support is generated by an exothermic chemical reaction.

17. (currently amended) The kit according to claim 16, wherein ~~said~~ the exothermic chemical reaction is oxidation of combustible materials.

18. (currently amended) The kit according to claim 15, wherein the heat for heating the ~~substrate~~ solid support is generated by passage of current through an electrical resistance element.

19. (currently amended) The kit according to Claim 15, wherein ~~said substrate~~ the solid support has a surface area dimensioned to accommodate a therapeutic dose of ~~a sedative hypnotic drug composition in said coating~~ the drug.

20. (currently amended) The kit according to claim 13, ~~wherein a~~ wherein peak plasma drug concentration ~~of sedative hypnotic drug is obtained~~ is reached in less than 0.1 hours ~~after delivery of the condensation aerosol to the pulmonary system~~.

21. (currently amended) The kit ~~of~~ according to claim 13, further including instructions for use.

22. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the therapeutic amount of a drug condensation aerosol comprises between 0.5 mg and 40 mg of zaleplon delivered in a single inspiration.

23. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the therapeutic amount of a drug condensation aerosol comprises between 0.5 mg and 40 mg of zolpidem delivered in a single inspiration.

24. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the therapeutic amount of a drug condensation aerosol comprises between 0.5 mg and 40 mg of zopiclone delivered in a single inspiration.

25. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the condensation aerosol is characterized by an MMAD of 0.2 to 5 microns.

26. (new) The method according to claim 2, wherein the condensation aerosol is characterized by an MMAD of 0.2 to 3 microns.

27. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the thin layer has a thickness between 1.5 and 4.4 microns.

28. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein the drug is zaleplon.

29. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein the drug is zolpidem.

30. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein the drug is zopiclone.

31. (new) The kit according to claim 13, wherein the condensation aerosol is characterized by an MMAD of less than 3 microns.

32. (new) The kit according to claim 13 wherein the condensation aerosol is characterized by an MMAD of 0.2 to 5 microns.

33. (new) The kit according to claim 31, wherein the condensation aerosol is characterized by an MMAD of 0.2 to 3 microns.

34. (new) The kit according to claim 13, wherein the thin layer has a thickness between 1.5 and 4.4 microns.

35. (new) The kit according to claim 13, wherein the drug is zaleplon.

36. (new) The kit according to claim 13, wherein the drug is zolpidem.

37. (new) The kit according to claim 13, wherein the drug is zopiclone.

38. (new) The kit according to claim 15, wherein the solid support has a surface to mass ratio of greater than 1 cm^2 per gram.

39. (new) The kit according to claim 15, wherein the solid support has a surface to volume ratio of greater than 100 per meter.

40. (new) The kit according to claim 15, wherein the solid support is a metal foil.

41. (new) The kit according to claim 40, wherein the metal foil has a thickness of less than 0.25 mm.